

APPLICATION NO. 09/502,873
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 24184300.1006

REMARKS

The present Application was originally filed with claims 1-48. In the Preliminary Amendment accompanying the Request for Continued Examination filed July 11, 2005, claims 1-48 were canceled and claims 49-69 were added. In the Non-Final Office Action mailed September 30, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 49-52, 54-56, 58-62, 64-66, 68, and 69, and objected to dependent claims 53, 57, 63, and 67 as representing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks. In this Reply, claims 53 and 63 have been canceled. Claims 49, 56-58, 60, and 66-68 have been amended. Claim 70 has been added. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 49-52, 54-62, and 64-70 are pending in this Application.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 49, 56, 60, and 66 as unpatentable over Skeen (U.S. Patent No. 5,557,798) in view of Cohen (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,585), but has allowed one claim depending from each independent claim. Because Applicants have incorporated the subject matter found allowable in dependent claims 53, 57, 63, and 67 into their respective independent claims 49, 56, 60, and 66, Applicants respectfully submit that these independent claims are in condition for allowance. Because claims 50-52, 54-55, 57-59, 61-62, 64-65, and 67-70 depend from and further limit independent claims 49, 56, 60, and 66, these dependent claims are also now in condition for allowance.

Through the amendments above, Applicants have endeavored to place claims in condition for allowance that the Examiner had indicated were allowable. Accordingly, these amendments have not been made for purposes of patentability, but instead have been made to place them in

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the form recommended by the Examiner. Accordingly, with respect to the claims that may issue from this application, Applicants have not surrendered any subject matter or otherwise amended the claims for reasons related to patentability, and the scope of the claims, under the doctrine of equivalents or otherwise, should not be limited by the above amendments.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and therefore request a Notice of Allowability for claims 49-52, 54-62, and 64-70. Because the three-month deadline for response expired on December 30, 2005, a petition requesting a one-month extension of time is included with this Reply. The Office is authorized to charge the \$120 fee for a one-month extension of time to Account No. 13-0480, Attorney Docket No. 24184300.1006. In the event that further fees are required or an overpayment has occurred, the Office is authorized to charge the above-referenced account. The Examiner is invited to please contact the undersigned Agent of Record if such would expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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